



Nuclear Receptor Signaling Atlas



Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program for 2005

Definition: The Nuclear Receptor Signaling Atlas (Nursa) is an NIH-supported consortium designed to develop, collate, and distribute information about Nuclear Receptor and coregulator structure, function, and role in disease (http://www.endo-society.org/news/endocrine_news/2004/nursa.cfm). The Nursa Pilot and Feasibility Supplement Program provides research support for a limited time (1-2 years) to enable eligible investigators to explore the feasibility of a concept related to the mission of the Nursa consortium (www.Nursa.org) and generate sufficient data to pursue it through other funding mechanisms. Pilot and feasibility studies are intended to fill gaps in the Nursa program by: (1) allowing for the exploration of possible innovative new leads or directions for established investigators in Nuclear Receptors, or (2) to stimulate investigators from other areas to lend their expertise to research in this area. Pilot and feasibility study support is not intended to provide support for new investigators with no established track record of external funding nor for large projects by established investigators that would otherwise be submitted as separate research grant applications.

Requirements: Projects are restricted to a maximum of \$75,000 (direct costs) per year for no more than two years of support. No equipment may be requested. Renewal for a second year is contingent on progress and continued focus on Nursa objectives.

Eligibility and related guidelines: Eligible investigators for pilot and feasibility funding generally are either established investigators with no previous work in Orphan or Nuclear Receptors who wish to apply their expertise to a problem in this area, or established investigators in Orphan or Nuclear Receptors who propose testing highly innovative ideas that represent a clear departure from ongoing research interests. **All eligible investigators must have faculty appointments and be independent investigators.** These awards are not intended to be for postdoctoral training.

Scientific focus areas for 2005: The focus for the 2005 P&F supplement program is on cutting edge technologies as applied to NR and/or NR coregulators. In particular, Nursa is interested in:

- ChIP-chip approaches to NR/coregulator expression and function
- Use of RNAi to study NR/coregulator function in intact cells or animals
- Novel approaches to imaging of NR/coregulator expression and function
- Application of systems biology approaches to defining and understanding networks of NR signaling in cells and tissues

These topics are not meant to be exclusive, but all applications must be judged responsive to the overall goals of the Nursa consortium to be eligible. Studies that are able to collaborate with ongoing Nursa projects are encouraged.

A proposed pilot and feasibility study should present a testable hypothesis or alternatively, a strong scientific rationale for the development or application of an essential reagent, assay, or innovative technology that would advance the goals of the Nursa consortium. The proposal should clearly delineate the questions being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed. In addition applicants should discuss how their project would enhance the Nursa program. Applicants should present defined milestones that delineate the pathway toward achieving the objectives and which may be used to assess progress. The proposal must address the overall focus given for 2005 and be complementary to the overall mission of the Nursa Consortium. Co-funding

*Baylor College of Medicine-Salk Institute-UT Southwestern-University of Pennsylvania-
Duke University-University of Rochester-Beckman Institute-Van Andel Institute-National
Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases-National Institute on Aging-
National Cancer Institute*



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from institutional sources is encouraged to further leverage Nursa funding for these projects. Projects will be selected for funding by a review panel convened by Nursa. A progress report submitted at the end of the first year will be evaluated by the Nursa consortium to determine whether a second year of support is warranted. In principle, an investigator is eligible only once for this support, unless the proposed work is considered of vital long-term importance to the Nursa consortium. Applicants should address IP issues and willingness to share according to Nursa policies on data sharing and technology transfer (see also <http://www.nursa.org/template.cfm?threadId=40> on the Nursa website for information about Administration of the consortium, including policies on technology transfer and data sharing). In addition, reference should be made where appropriate to the NIH policy on sharing of model organisms (<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-04-042.html>).

The PHS 398 application kit should be used for submitting a pilot and feasibility study. Each project should begin with a face page, abstract, and budget pages followed by information requested in Sections A through I of the instructions for the PHS 398 grant application (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms_faq.pdf). It should be submitted generally using the NIH research project application format, with appropriate signatures on the face page, but the description of the proposed research should be limited to **five** pages. All pilot and feasibility studies should be submitted electronically to Carolyn Hunnicutt-Armijo at Baylor College of Medicine (carolyna@bcm.tmc.edu) no later than **April 15, 2005**. If not possible to submit electronically, 5 hardcopies and a CD-ROM should be sent to:

Carolyn Hunnicutt-Armijo
c/o Dr. Neil McKenna
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Additional information about *Nursa* may be obtained from:

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